(79)

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 /072 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 680

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 5/21/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4296

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CLAIMS PRC WILL BACK NORTH KOREAN ATTACK
1. PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL CLAIMED JUNE 14 THAT KIM IL-IWNG OBTAINED PRIOR APPROVAL FROM PRC FOR INVASION OF SOUTH KOREA WHEN HE VISITED CHINA IN APRIL. TALKING AT A SECURITY BRIEFING IN TAEGU, KIM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "SOME PEOPLE ALLEGE" THAT PEKING RESTRAINED KIM IL-SUNG FROM STARTING A WAR, BUT SAID THAT SUCH AN "ALLEGATION" STEMS FROM MISUNDERSTANDING OF -- AND PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF -- THE COMMUNISTS' "DISGUISED PEACE OFFENSIVE. " HE NOTED THAT PRC AND USSR "COMPETITIVELY HELPED" NORTH VIETNAM COMMUNIZE THE WHOLE OF VIETNAM AND SAID IT IS "STARK REALITY" THAT THEY WOULD DO THE SAME FOR NORTH KOREA.

2. IN CURIOUS REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT PARK'S EARLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROK, KIM SAID THAT PARK AS CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAD TOLD THE GOVERNMENT SHORTLY BEFORE THE KOREAN WAR THAT NORTH KOREA MIGHT INVADE THE SOUTH BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE 1950. HOWEVER, PARK'S WARNING HAD NOT BEEN HEEDED, ACCORDING TO KIM, WHO CITED KOREAN WAR AS GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT GROSS IGNORANCE OF REALITY CAN BRING ABOUT.

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3. ROK PRESS GAVE PRIMIN'S REMARKS TOP PLAY, UNDER HEADLINES ANNOUNCING THAT PEKING APPROVED PYONGYANG'S INVASION PLANS. STORIES BRIEFLY MENTIONED THAT KIM HAD ALSO SAID THAT USG IS CARRYING OUT ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO KOREA IN DEEDS AS WELL AS WORDS. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL REACTION.

4. OPPOSITION NDP ATTACKED KIM'S REMARKS THROUGH JUNE 16 STATEMENT BY PARTY SPOKEMAN YI TAEK-TONE, WHO CALLED STATEMENT ABOUT PRC "VERY SHOCKING." YI DEMANDED THAT KIM REVEAL SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION OR ELSE ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING "GROUNDLESS RUMORS." SPLINTER DUP ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICAL OF PRIMIN'S REMARKS.

5. [redacted]

E-1
E6
E2

SNEIDER